

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Mid City WEST Neighborhood Council

Name: Lauren Nichols

Phone Number:

Email: lnichols@midcitywest.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(28) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 11/03/2022

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 11/11/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1196

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Mid City West Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmembers respond to community demands for significant reform in light of recent ethics scandals that have embarrassed the City of LA on the national stage and seriously undermined the public's confidence in the integrity of City Council, its current structure and processes, and its ability to authentically represent in good faith the diverse constituencies that make up Los Angeles. This includes, but is not limited to Black, Indigenous, other people of color, the Armenian community, the Jewish community, LGBTQ+ folks, the unhoused community, renters, children and other groups that are too often marginalized in our society, over-represented in our public systems, and ignored by our elected representatives. We specifically ask that the City Council take action to: expand the number of City Councilmembers, remove City Councilmembers' direct discretionary power over land use decisions in their districts, reform City Council rules concerning lobbyists (as proposed by the City Ethics Commission in CF 22-0560), and establish a truly independent redistricting commission (as called for in CF 21-1472). We also encourage other activities that address the unethical culture that has come to define City Hall in recent years.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2021 -2023**



COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF:

Lauren Nichols
Chair

[Council File 22-1197](#) (FOR)
New Ad Hoc Committee / City Government Reform / October 2021 Recordings Release / Transparency and Limit Corruption / Los Angeles Residents Trust

Michael Schneider
First Vice Chair

[Council File 22-1196](#) (FOR)
Charter Reform Ballot Initiative / Los Angeles City Council Seats / City Residents Representation

Will Hackner
Second Vice Chair

November 11, 2022

Melissa Algaze
Secretary

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ben Kram
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Mid City West Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmembers respond to community demands for significant reform in light of recent ethics scandals that have embarrassed the City of LA on the national stage and seriously undermined the public's confidence in the integrity of City Council, its current structure and processes, and its ability to authentically represent in good faith the diverse constituencies that make up Los Angeles. This includes, but is not limited to Black, Indigenous, other people of color, the Armenian community, the Jewish community, LGBTQ+ folks, the unhoused community, renters, children and other groups that are too often marginalized in our society, over-represented in our public systems, and ignored by our elected representatives.

We specifically ask that the City Council take action to: expand the number of City Councilmembers, remove City Councilmembers' direct discretionary power over land use decisions in their districts, reform City Council rules concerning lobbyists (as proposed by the City Ethics Commission in CF 22-0560), and establish a truly independent redistricting commission (as called for in CF 21-1472). We also encourage other activities that address the unethical culture that has come to define City Hall in recent years.

In light of the now infamous leaked recording from a 2021 strategy discussion on redistricting between Councilmembers Martinez, de Leon and Cedillo we demand urgent action to begin to restore faith in our City's elected representatives and democratic institutions. The portions of the recording already released are evidence of intentional violation of the law during the redistricting process. Specifically, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Acts requires that redistricting changes must be proven to not have a discriminatory purpose or effect. In the recording released, we see clear evidence of an overt discriminatory purpose in redistricting proposals which were subsequently adopted. This opens up the city to liability and makes urgent the need for a truly independent redistricting commission. We also believe that the City Council desperately needs expansion. We are the most underrepresented City Council in the entire nation with a constituent to representative ratio of 260,000 to 1. This concentration of power in too few hands drives the



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favor-brokering and horse trading on display. Angelenos desperately need diverse representative government, not those who cling to racism in justification for their policymaking.

Lastly, we worry that the comments on the recordings are evidence not just of bigotry, but also evidence of our elected officials being incredibly out of touch with their constituents. We ask that City Council, to increase accessibility, implement hybrid meetings that allow for people to make virtual comments during meetings and allow for the public to share space and hold accountable our elected officials during deliberations of the public's business.

Sincerely,

Lauren Nichols
Chair
Mid City West Neighborhood Council

CC: Ethics Commission and Office
Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department